

program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act which would put the National Flood Insurance Program, an important program to the residents of Rhode Island, back on solid footing. Devastated by the impact of Hurricane Katrina, the National Flood Insurance Program has operated in deficits for over 2 years. This bill authorizes increased funds for the program and includes additional provisions to improve flood plain mapping. Under this legislation, FEMA is required to conduct a review of U.S. flood maps and make the necessary changes to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness. We owe it to homeowners across the country to provide a fiscally sound insurance policy for natural disasters that create a flood crisis. In my district, the National Flood Insurance Program is essential to economic growth. My home state of Rhode Island saw a 15 percent increase in policy growth to the NFIP as many residents reside in coastal areas that would be threatened by a flood disaster. This bill can give homeowners in my district some peace of mind during storms and violent weather. Though questions remain over the cost of the optional wind coverage in the National Flood Insurance Program, I support the pending study by the General Accountability Office to investigate the financial viability of the wind program. I applaud Chairman FRANK, and congresswoman WATERS' efforts to infuse federal dollars back into the National Flood Insurance Program so that it continues to serve as a safety net for victims of future natural disasters. Congress has an obligation to ensure that this program is on sound financial footing and I urge my colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

#### CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTICELLO DAM

#### HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to bring your attention to Monticello Dam which is located at the very western border of California's Third Congressional District. This month marks the 50th anniversary of Monticello Dam, a part of the Federal Solano Project. The Solano Project is owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation and is operated and maintained locally by the Solano County Water Agency. It serves a growing population of about 350,000 people and irrigated farm land of about 80,000 acres.

The beautiful Lake Berryessa was formed by Monticello Dam. Lake Berryessa is enjoyed year round for its recreational opportunities. Lower Putah Creek downstream of the dam provides a valuable fish and wildlife area and the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, made up of Yolo and Solano representatives, is involved in creek restoration projects to enhance the natural setting.

Monticello Dam is an integral part of the Federal Solano Project and is an example of how the Bureau of Reclamation was able to achieve environmental protection, restore and

protect wildlife habitat, and at the same time provide much needed water for the people of this part of the state of California. It exemplifies how we can work responsibly to utilize the benefits of nature on behalf of all the people.

#### RECOGNIZING VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 696 IN OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

#### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work the Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 in Owensboro, Kentucky, continue to do to improve their community. Post 696 has exemplified the mission of the VFW: "Honor the dead by helping the living."

The Post has donated over \$22,000 to local and State organizations in the past year. Beneficiaries of their generosity have included local schools, the Boy Scouts, shelters, and churches. Their generosity has also been extended to organizations such as the Wendell Foster Center, Shriners Hospitals, the Children's Wish Foundation, the Disabled American Veterans, and JEVCO.

Post 696 recently sponsored a going away picnic for the members of Ft. Campbell's Alpha Troop and their families being deployed to Iraq. The city of Owensboro adopted Alpha Troop through the Americans Supporting Americans' Adopt-a-Unit-Program. I thank the members of the troop for their service and the city of Owensboro for this commitment to these brave soldiers.

The VFW Post 696 Honor/Color Guard has been busy serving the community as well. Since 2001, they have participated in over 400 Veteran funerals and 50 community events in Daviess County.

I want to recognize the leaders of Post 696, Commander Richard "Ike" Eisenmenger Jr., Ladies Auxiliary President Marilu Goodsell, and Color/Honor Guard Commander Joseph Hayden. They have worked tirelessly to serve veterans and improve their community.

It is my privilege to honor the members of VFW Post 696 today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for their past service to our country and continued dedication to serving their community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE COMPLETION OF THE CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM

#### HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte High School on the completion of their new football stadium and to honor the Charlotte County community for their dedication to the rebuilding of Charlotte High School.

Charlotte County High School has been educating the students of Charlotte County since 1926. In the summer of 2004, Charlotte High School and its stadium were devastated

by Hurricane Charley. Since 2004 the Charlotte County community, including the Charlotte County School Board, Superintendent Dave Gayler, Principal Barney Duffy and many students and families have worked diligently to rebuild both their city and their high school.

On October 5, 2007 work on the new Charlotte High School football stadium will be officially complete, marking an important milestone in the rebuilding of both the school and the spirit of the community. On this day, the Charlotte High School football team will play their first game in the new stadium against Manatee High School.

The students, parents and teachers of Charlotte High School have already achieved a huge victory by rebuilding their stadium. As the Charlotte High School Tarpons take the field tomorrow, they will have with them the great fighting spirit of the entire Charlotte High School community.

On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I wish luck to Coach Binky Waldrop, the Charlotte High School football players and the entire Charlotte High School community as they fight for yet another victory in Charlotte High School Stadium.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF BELLFLOWER

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Bellflower and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 50th anniversary. I am proud to represent this unique city as part of my 34th Congressional District of California.

And while we honor 50 years of official incorporation, Bellflower's roots date back to 1784, when a Spanish leatherjacket soldier named Manuel Nieto received a 300,000-acre land grant on which to graze livestock. After Nieto passed away in 1804, his land was divided into five smaller ranchos that were distributed to his heirs in 1832. His daughter, Manuela Cota, received a 27,000-acre plot known as Rancho Los Cerritos. After several changes in ownership, the rancho was eventually purchased by Lewellyn Bixby during the 1860s. Bixby's brother, Jotham, who was selected to manage the ranch, divided the land into several sections, including a 4,000-acre area called Somerset Ranch. This is the land on which much of Bellflower as we now know it would eventually sit.

During the late 1800s, a settlement began to sprout up along the banks of the San Gabriel River, but the community remained small and the population numbered less than 100 through the early part of the 20th century. The completion of a Pacific Electric Railway line through Somerset Ranch in 1905, and the vision of founders Emil Firth and Frank E. Woodruff to subdivide large ranches into town-sized lots provided a catalyst for growth. By 1912, Bellflower's population numbered more than 1,200.

Bellflower remained a rural community for many years and became known for its dairy and poultry farming. Many Dutch, Portuguese, Hispanic and Japanese immigrants settled in